

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION

I, Geoffrey S. Ratte, declare that I am a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 201 Brockenbraugh Court, Metairie, LA 70005; that I have read the foregoing specification and claims and verily believe I am the original first and sole inventor of the invention in FISHING LINE CLAMP, described and claimed therein; that this application in part discloses and claims subject matter disclosed in my earlier filed pending applications, Serial No. 08/651,053 filed 5/21/96 Serial No. 08/867,950 filed 6/30/97 and; that, as to the subject matter of this application which is common to said earlier application, that I do not know and do not believe that this invention was ever known or used before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof, or more than one year prior to said earlier application; or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to said earlier application; that said common subject matter has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate before the date of said earlier application in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than 12 months before said earlier application; and that no application for patent on this invention has been filed by me or my representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as follows: None.

That as to the subject matter of this application which is not common to said earlier application, I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used before my invention thereof or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to the date of this application or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to the date of this application, and that said subject matter has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to the date of this application; and that no application for patent on said invention has been filed by me or my representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States; that I acknowledge a duty to disclose information which I am aware of which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations Paragraph 1.56(a).

And I hereby appoint Marvin Jacobson, Reg. No. 20,196 and Carl L. Johnson, Reg. No. 24,273, my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Please mail all correspondence to the following address:

Jacobson and Johnson
Suite 285
One West Water Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107-2080

That I have reviewed the declaration and understand the contents of the specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the declaration.

Therefore, I pray that Letters Patent may be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney and this petition.

The undersigned petitioner declares further that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.

Date 8-14-2000


Geoffrey S. Ratte

State of _____

County of _____